

a.) Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An agent for treating arthritis which comprises, as active ingredients:

(i) leaves or branch ends of *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var.

Thunbergii Makino, or an extract of said leaves or branch ends; and

(ii) ~~an amino sugar~~ glucosamine or a salt thereof, ~~or glycosaminoglycan~~  
and chondroitin sulfate or a salt thereof, said parts (i) and (ii) being present at a  
composition ratio of from ~~1:50 to 50:1~~ 1:10 to 10:1 parts by weight.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

3. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The agent for treating arthritis according to claim 1, wherein the *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. Thunbergii Makino is *Hydrangeae Dulcis* Folium.

Claims 4-5 (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) A food or drink, further comprising:

(i) leaves or branch ends of *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var.

Thunbergii Makino, or an extract of said leaves or branch ends; and

(ii) ~~glucosamine amino-sugar~~ or a salt thereof, ~~or glycosaminoglycan and~~  
~~chondroitin sulfate~~ or a salt thereof, said parts (i) and (ii) being present at a composition  
ratio of from ~~1:50 to 50:1~~ 1:10 to 10:1 parts by weight.

7. (Previously Presented) The food or drink according to claim 6,  
which is used for of treating arthritis.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

9. (Previously Presented) The food or drink according to either of  
claims 6 or 7, wherein the *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. Thunbergii Makino is  
*Hydrangeae Dulcis Folium*.

Claims 10-17 (Cancelled).

18. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A method for treating arthritis,  
which comprises administering to a mammal a composition comprising (i) leaves or

branch ends of *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. Thunbergii Makino or an extract of said leaves or branch ends, and (ii) ~~amino-sugar~~ glucosamine or a salt thereof, or ~~glycosaminoglycan~~ and chondroitin sulfate or a salt thereof, said parts (i) and (ii) being present at a composition ratio of from ~~1:50 to 50:1~~ 1:10 to 10:1 parts by weight.

Claim 19 (Cancelled).

20. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The method for treating arthritis according to claim 19, wherein the *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. Thunbergii Makino is *Hydrangeae Dulcis* Folium.

Claims 21-32 (Cancelled).